

Published

every month for Chicago Scouts by the Chicago Council, Boy Scouts of America

AUG.
1928

Scoutcraft

VOL. 8

NO. 8



Beach Croquet

EXCELSIOR

Official Boy Scout Shoes

Camp Time is
Here Now

None Genuine
Without This
Label



C'mon, fellas, be outfitted right with a sturdy pair of *Excelsior Official Boy Scout Shoes*. These shoes are approved and made to the specification of the **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**.

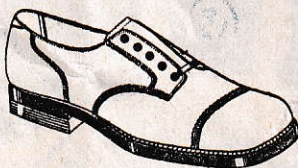


The Genuine
Excelsior Official Boy Scout
Camp Shoe

The Official Boy Scout Moccasin Camp Shoe. Medium Shade Tan Elk Moccasin Blucher on the MOC-CASIN last. Half bellows torque. Brass eyelets. Inside ankle patch. Rubber heels. Gro-Cord sole. You walk on the ends of thousands of cords molded into the rubber. You can't slip.



The Official Boy Scout Service Shoe. Regular Army Type Blucher. MUNSON last. Soft, sturdy, strong uppers. Heavy double oak soles, or heavy overweight single soles, rubber heels. This is the ring leader of the gang. Built to give real comfort on the hike.



The Official Boy Scout Dress Oxford. Class No. 1 leather. Medium Shade Tan Veal Blucher Oxford on the snappy BOBBY BURNS last with wide extended leather soles, rubber heels, match eyelets and Armstrong cork box. You will be proud to wear these for school.



The Official Boy Scout Outing Play Shoe. Tan Elk Lace to Toe Blucher with tan veal stay, back stay, ankle patch and outside counter pocket on the BOBBY BURNS last. Hood sport rubber sole and heel. Brass eyelets. On the bike, shooting marbles, or playing ball, it's "there."

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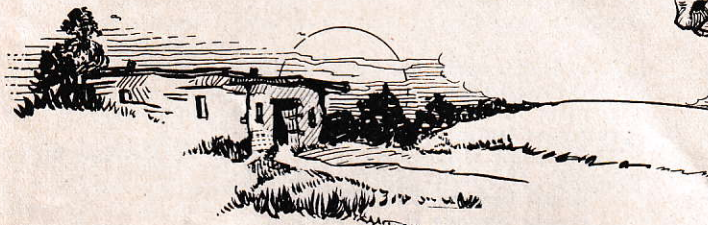
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The ... *A Camper's Adventure near Mexican Border* WATER-HOLE



THE scene of this incident was near the Mexican border many years ago. An old trail leading over into Sonora crossed there, and near the boundary-line was a deserted adobe hut. Not far from the hut was a hole in the ground with some water in it, called, by a stretch of imagination, a well or water-hole; I was camped there because of the water, but I had no tent, neither did I sleep in the hut or near the well. A tent would be superfluous baggage in this country, because it very seldom rained. It was much better, for many reasons, to roll up in one's blankets with only the desert sky overhead. I stretched out my blankets in some thin greasewood bushes and slept with my ear to the ground, knowing quite well that the border passes were runways of outlaws and thieves. In the middle of the night, I was awakened by the sound of galloping horses and men's voices. Down from the North came five riders, their horses blowing, and they themselves muttering and cursing over some mishap. When they saw the hut, they stopped and came together as though for a council of war. Then they separated, surrounding the hut at a distance and began bellowing at the supposed occupant. Getting no answer, they fired two shots into the hut. Still without response, they dismounted, approached and finally found the hut deserted. There was some more violent swearing, and they then began a search for the water-hole, which they evidently knew was somewhere near. My presence they never suspected and I would have remained unseen, had it not been for my horse, picketed a quarter of a mile beyond me. A horse can always be relied upon to get his owner in trouble, and mine let out a loud neigh, at this time. He had heard or winded the other horses and his social instinct was aroused. The men, (evidently were horse-thieves and were riding hard to get over the border away from some sheriff's posse) pricked up their ears at once. One of them started in the direction of the staked horse, and unfortunately his way led towards me. At thirty yards distance, I called to him to stop. He jumped as though he had been shot at, and caught at his gun. I quickly informed him that if he drew his gun I would shoot. He stopped. What did he want? Water for their horses. Where was the water-hole—I told him. Who was I and what was I doing there? Merely studying desert geology. Who were they?—that was more important. No reply. They passed on down into Mexico. The moral is that had I been camped in a tent, they could have located me instantly and shot me through the canvas. As it was, I had the advantage, being hidden from view, sleeping on my blankets, some distance from the hut.

Of course such incidents are rare, but when in a strange land it behooves one to sleep like a jack-rabbit—that is, with one eye open. A white tent in the moonlight, that

every Indian or bear can recognize as easily as a camp-fire is merely an advertisement of your presence. It puts blinders in your eyes and cotton in your ears, so that anything can sneak up upon you. There may not be any danger threatening you, but when you are alone in the wilderness you need all your senses about you. A tent in this part of the country isolates you from the world without. One of the unique scares of my life came to me in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains, where one autumn, I was camping under canvas, with a companion. We had been hunting and the carcass of a deer was hanging from a small tree some fifty yards from the camp-fire one night.

Sleeping in our figure A tent with the door-flap pegged down, we were awakened by the catlike scream or yowl of a mountain lion. Had we been in the open we might have seen him and perhaps taken a shot at him. As it was, we sat in our blankets and wondered what to do. While poised there momentarily in the darkness, the tent-flap was suddenly burst open by some large beast that sprang directly upon me. In warding him off, I threw out both hands before me and struck coarse hair. For a moment my heart stopped beating. Then the animal began to growl and I recognized my friend's setter dog. He had been sleeping outside by the burnt-out camp-fire, and frightened by the lion's cry, had dashed against the tent-flap and landed directly upon me. The mountain-lion had been inspecting the carcass of our deer in the tree. He could have dragged away or eaten everything in camp for all that we could have known of him, sleeping inside our tent.

Another night while camping near the border, I was awakened by a feeling similar to some one's finger being slowly drawn along my backbone. I was sleeping on the ground, rolled in blankets Indian fashion; but I could feel that moving something through the blankets. I knew instinctively that it was a snake, but lay still for a moment wondering whether I should roll over on him and try to crush him, or roll away from him. I decided that this was no time for valor and that I had better roll away from him. How I got started, I hardly knew, but once in action I did not stop until I was ten feet away.

He rattled, but it was too dark for me to see him. I crept carefully back, got hold of the corner of my tarpaulin and jerked it out from under the snake. I then moved some hundred yards away, leaving him to rattle himself quiet.

This incident was unusual for I have never known snakes to move about at night. They have not a night eye and they particularly dislike the chilly evening winds. Basking in the sun by day and creeping into a hole or under a rock by night is their usual habit.

Announcing

THE BOY SCOUT ROUND-UP

OF 1928

Chicago Council - - Boy Scouts of America

ON the Western Plains, the yearly Round-Up is a great occasion. Every one from Ranch Boss to Cow Puncher tackles the job of roping and branding the mavericks and enters into the many competitions of the Round-Up with that enthusiasm peculiar to the cowboy.

To certain Scout Councils throughout the country the annual campaign for new Scouts and for advancement has taken on the significance of a Western Round-Up.

The Chicago Council will stage a Round-Up this Fall to round up the mavericks (new Scouts); give an opportunity to the cowboys to win their spurs (advancement of tenderfoot Scouts to second class and second class Scouts to first class) and to stimulate competition between all the Ranch Outfits (the troops).

At the close of the Round-Up a great Scout Jamboree will be held for recognition of achievement among the Ranch Outfits.

I. The Reason for the Round-Up

The successful Scout troop is the only kind of troop worth having. Chicago has over 500 troops, with varying degrees of success in each.

Careful investigation has revealed the fact that there is a close relation between the size of a Scout troop and the success it enjoys. The small troops are usually the struggling troops, and the troops in which there is little or no advancement from grade to grade.

To stimulate every troop in the city toward success in both the quantity and quality of its work, the Boy Scout Round-Up of 1928 is planned. Its objectives are:

- (1) Filling up the Ranks by the "rounding up" of new boys.
- (2) Advancement of Scouts to Second and First Class Rank.

If every troop in Chicago were to fill up its Ranks to the number of 32 Scouts, it would mean that over 3,000 new boys could become Scouts without the organization of a single new troop. If an average of 5 Scouts a troop could become Second Class and three more become First Class during the Round-Up, it would mean a revival of enthusiasm in the troops of this city such as even the old timers have never seen.

II. The Plan of the Round-Up

With these objectives established, the plan is this:

- (1) To have each troop, during the month of September, establish its own objectives in terms of:
 - (a) Number of new Scouts.
 - (b) Number of new Second Class Scouts.
 - (c) Number of new First Class Scouts.

The objectives to be approved by the Neighborhood Commissioner and certified to Headquarters by the District Round-Up Committee.

- (2) To conduct a two months' achievement drive or Round-Up in the troops to reach the objectives established, the Round-Up opening officially on October 1st and closing on November 30th.
- (3) To stage a great Scout Jamboree during the early part of December, in the nature of dramatic demonstration of Scouting, at which time recognition would be given to:
 - (a) To each troop which attained its objective.
 - (b) To each new Scout secured.
 - (c) To each Scout who "roped" a new boy.

(d) To each new Second Class Scout.

(e) To each new First Class Scout.

A mass investiture of the new Tenderfoots will be one spectacular feature of the Jamboree.

To keep the atmosphere of the Round-Up throughout the campaign, this order will be followed:

Scouts become Cow Punchers.

Troops become Ranch Outfits.

Scoutmasters become Ranch Foremen.

III. Organization of the Round-Up

The General Organization includes:

Round-Up Boss—General LeRoy T. Steward, Chief Scout.

Associate Round-Up Boss—Franklin Bradley, Scout Commissioner.

Chief Wrangler—Maurice H. Needham, Chairman of Publicity, together with the Top Rider and Jamboree Boss as indicated below.

Round-Up Committee

J. H. Douglas, Jr., Top Rider.
 S. S. Reid, North Shore Range Rider.
 H. J. Janson, West Side Range Rider.
 O. D. Applegate, Calumet Range Rider.
 J. F. Brandt, So. Central Range Rider.
 John Giometti, So. Shore Range Rider.
 Robert Green, North West Range Rider.
 B. C. Hubbard, So. West Range Rider.
 Dr. Bert Anderson, Douglas Range Rider.

Jamboree Committee

Alfred W. Stern, Jamboree Boss.
 I. B. Yates, North Shore Ranch Boss.
 Abe Jaffe, West Side Ranch Boss.
 Donald Durfey, Calumet Ranch Boss.
 Lloyd Rohrke, So. Central Ranch Boss.
 R. L. Van Horn, So. Shore Ranch Boss.
 Henry Lasco, North West Ranch Boss.
 R. E. Maysack, So. West Ranch Boss.
 R. A. Lucas, Douglas Ranch Boss.

The Round-Up Committee directs the plans and operations of the Two Months' Campaign.

The Jamboree Committee supervises the Jamboree which will serve as the climax of the Round-Up.

IV. Further Announcements

Wherever Scouts congregate, the Round-Up will be in the air and on the tongue. We shall be looking forward to the big occasion. Question as to the application of the plan to various troops can be discussed. We shall then be ready to go early in September.

On September 1st, there will be issued to each troop a complete statement of plans including the following:

The Round-Up Guide Book.

A Troop Bulletin Board Announcement Sheet.

A Quota Sheet in blank.

A packet of Announcement Sheets for Scouts.

As each troop turns in its quota sheet filled out and countersigned by the Neighborhood Commissioner, it will be furnished with the Achievement Buttons and such other paraphernalia as may be designed to promote the Round-Up within the troop.

Troops will naturally want to get going full speed ahead in the early part of September.

THE GREAT BOLOGNY DISCOVERY

By Hezekiah McSnafflebit

(Continued)

THE gang looked at one another. Bob permitted himself a slight shiver as though he had been splashed with cold water.

"Just like a campfire story," piped up Clem. "Maybe our unknown brethren have been taken off guard and the silk hat committee is unprepared."

"That doesn't sound so nice," said Joe. "We ought to investigate before we go further. Pete, you and Stan hop in the dink and scout ahead quick and see who's who and what it's all about."

With quiet swiftness the dinghy went over the side. Clem hobbled out of the galley with two pieces of bacon rind with which he made anti-squeak collars for the rowlock stems. Pete stepped into the stern and Stan pulled away into the fog, feathering lightly and with so little noise that it soon became indistinguishable.

"You fellows better look around and get something to defend the boat and ourselves with in case we have to," said Joe. "Be prepared to go over the side, if necessary."

The thrill of action was on the crowd again and nervousness was forgotten. They dug around and brought to light a murderous collection of good law-abiding, home-loving implements like the pump and winch handles, a poker and coal shovel from the galley, a small ax, some bronze belaying pins and other things. That done, ship and crew were stripped for action, and the crew stood to stations hefting their weapons and shuffling around in attitudes of attack and defense.

Joe, who had been practicing wicked one-handed swings with the ax on the after deck, suddenly recalled the condition of the boat and set about working her off the rock. Bob, who was a dainty little man of 180 lbs., swung the light hook off the stern for about 20 feet and heaved in. The rest rocked the boat from side to side while Joe planted the end of the spinnaker pole on the rock forward and pushed. In less than a minute she floated fore. The line from the light anchor was then passed forward to the mooring bit and the good ship "Icebox" rode to her mooring, such as it was.

This stunt was barely completed when there came a sharp cry of alarm from the direction taken by the dinghy followed by "Ahoy Icebox!" which was answered vociferously by the crew. They could hear Stan, the best and most technical of oarsmen, splashing toward them with frantic haste while Pete called through the fog for directions. Presently they could distinguish a bow wave from the boat, see Stan hurling his body into the strokes, see Pete straining ahead. In another two seconds they would have been alongside when suddenly out of the fog behind them a coil of something or a lariat loop dropped over Pete and jerked him over the stern.

For a moment everyone was petrified. Pete was being swiftly drawn back into the fog.

Suddenly, with a cry like a wild beast at bay, Mike caught up the galley carving knife and dived overboard and swam furiously in the direction of his brother, Pete. Joe stared after Mike for a moment, then "over and after 'em" he barked, and did likewise. The crew followed with a volley of splashes and tore after him.

Clem, as he went along, noticed the dinghy adrift and seizing the rope in his teeth pulled it back and was making fast to the port shrouds when Doc came tumbling out of the cabin with a piece of marline in his hand.

"Came back for my chewing gum," spat Clem. "Come on! Whatcha doing there?"

"Get aboard here and help me with this—quick!" snapped Doc, and with an added beckoning of the hand he popped down the hatch again. Clem scrambled aboard without delay and dived below.

(To be continued)



By The Radio Editor

It is the editor's intention to make this column of practical interest to every reader who is interested in radio. If you are in need of advice, or technical information, put your questions in a letter and address it to the radio editor. The answer will appear in this department.

KEEPING YOUR RADIO SET UP TO PAR

By J. H. Welches

Very often after a radio receiver has been installed and the service man has departed, the receiver will operate in a manner that is quite satisfactory for a period of three or four months and then develop some very radical tendencies. Probably the most annoying development is that of noise. Noises are introduced into a receiver from several different sources other than the main reason of outside interference. Some of these other sources are leaking by-pass condensers, grid leaks which do not maintain constant resistance values, C batteries which have been in service too long, oxidation of the metal on the tube prongs, loose connections and corrosion.

When your set begins to develop one of these bothersome noises, the first thing to do is to remove the antenna in order to determine whether the noise is being picked up from the air or whether the disturbance is being generated within the equipment itself. If the noise ceases when you disconnect the antenna from the receiver, the first thing to do is to make a careful inspection of all the antenna and lead-in wires to see that there are no loose connections or leaks across the insulators due to accumulated soot. (Insulators should be scrubbed off about once every six months.)

If the antenna seems satisfactory upon inspection, it is safe to assume that the noise is being picked up from some outside interference sources and usually the set owner is quite helpless. There are so many sources of outside interference and so many different ways of dealing with them that they will not be considered at this time, since we are interested in eliminating disturbing noises from the equipment itself.

(Continued on page six)

Scoutcraft

Published Monthly by

The Chicago Council Boy Scouts of America

37 South Wabash Avenue

Chicago, Illinois

Telephone State 3990

PRINTING OFFICE

638 Federal Street, Chicago, Ill.

Harrison 7517

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CITY WIDE COURT OF REVIEW

AUGUST

EAGLE and PALM Court of Review, WEDNESDAY, August 29th, at SCOUT HEADQUARTERS, 37 South Wabash Avenue, Room 905, at 6:30 P. M. APPLICATIONS must be filed at HEADQUARTERS on WEDNESDAY, August 22nd.

SEPTEMBER

EAGLE and PALM Court of Review, WEDNESDAY, September 26th, at SCOUT HEADQUARTERS, 37 South Wabash Avenue, Room 905, at 6:30 P. M. APPLICATIONS must be filed at HEADQUARTERS on WEDNESDAY, September 19th.

A RESCUE

While spending the day on the Galeen River at New Buffalo, Michigan, on July 4th, 1928, Eagle Scout James G. Wood, Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop No. 36 of Summit, Ill., did a good turn which he will not soon forget. Being a very modest hero the following story related by Scout Wood, 19 years old, was not told to even his closest friends for days after the incident.

"Hearing the cries of help, my cousin, George Sieb and I ran to the store to see a 12 year old boy going down for the first time. My cousin was dressed in his civilian clothes and I in my bathing suit, so I was the first to reach him. The boy was in 20 ft. deep water and over 35 ft. from shore when I reached him and was less than a half block from where the river runs into the lake. I reached the boy as he was going down the third time from the rear and applied the cross chest carry. The boy offered no resistance and I kept talking to him while towing him towards shore."

The above is as Scout Wood, who lives at 5424 74th Ave. of Summit, Ill., told the story to E. Walker Ropp, Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop No. 881 of Irving Park Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill., who is a personal friend and who quite frequently visit back and forth, as both are employed by the same firm.

E. Walker Ropp



Barrett Wendell, Jr. Lodge,
Camp Checaugau,
Owasippe Scout Camps

KEEPING YOUR RADIO SET FIT—(Continued from page five)

If, after the antenna has been disconnected, the scratching noise still persists, there is a regular order in which one may progress toward the spot which is causing annoyance. Tackle the ground wire first and make certain that the connection to the ground pipe is tight and not oxidized. It is a good idea to use a ground clamp at all times. This will eliminate the troublesome grounding noises.

After inspecting the ground, the next thing to look at is the grid leak. Twist it around a couple of times in the connecting clips to make sure that the terminals are clean, then take the grid leak out of the clips entirely. If the noise stops that's the answer and you need a new grid leak.

The next points of inspection are the battery connections. Try the A battery first. Be sure that there are no acid corrosions on the wires where they make contact with the battery terminals. The best thing to do at this point is to wash all of the acid off of the battery terminals and the cable wires and clips with a brush, soap and water. Then cover all of the connection surfaces with vaseline, which will keep the acid from crawling and spoiling the joints.

B battery terminals of the clip type can be cleaned by pulling the wires back and forth in the clips. Usually the ends of the battery cable leads are covered with solder and this solder tends to oxidize after a certain time. The oxidized surface makes a very poor and noisy connection. This applies to all surfaces which are lead coated and which are not soldered together.

Weakened Batteries Noisy

It is well to remember that both B and C batteries tend to introduce a great amount of noise into a set when the cells have depreciated appreciably and the resistance of the cells has increased. About the only way to determine this point is by the substitution of batteries after all other tests have failed to disclose the reason for the trouble.

A batteries are, in a few isolated cases, responsible for noise when they have become old and dirt has dropped down between the plates allowing leakage paths between the cells themselves. Substitution will quickly show up a noisy A battery. All A batteries introduce a small amount of noise into a receiver if they have been charged recently, although the noise from this source should not be annoying to any great extent.

Probably a good fifty per cent of the noise in all radio receivers are due to the imperfect contact of the vacuum tubes with their associate socket springs. The first thing to do is to take the tubes out, one at a time and wipe the

prongs off with a good clean cloth. A little alcohol would not do any harm. I say one at a time because the service man may have matched the tubes into your receiver when it was installed and, if you get them twisted around, you may experience very much less satisfactory operation. On the other hand, if you mark the positions in which they were originally, and then try them in different sockets you may sometimes realize a very definite gain in both tone quality and amplification.

About the only way to clean the socket springs themselves is to move the tubes up and down, in and out of the sockets until the springs are cleaned by the simple process of pushing the dirt off to one side. Wherever possible get at the springs with a cloth and alcohol and rub hard. It is very good practice to clean the tube prongs and sockets at least once a month. While we are on the subject of tubes, it is well to remember that this applies to all tubes used in the B eliminator and power amplifier and it also applies to rectifier cartridges which are used in A eliminators.

Noise is sometimes introduced into a receiver by virtue of a poor contact at the switch. In such a case the trouble can be corrected by bending the contact spring or springs so that the pressure is heavy enough to keep the switch from moving around when it is in the "on" position.

Certain kinds of hissing noises are built up within the tubes themselves. Very often they can be eliminated by changing the tubes around to various positions in the radio. Tubes in the radio-frequency section of the receiver will not amplify such noises since they are working at a super audible frequency, so the noisy tube can be placed in this section of the receiver and the one which was taken out can be placed back in the audio frequency amplifier. Thus you would be experiencing perfectly quiet operation even though one of the tubes was exceptionally noisy. Most radio listeners are familiar with the ringing noise which is set up when a tube has a loose element. The same remedy applies to tubes of this type. Place them in the radio frequency section of the set.

Detector tubes of the gas type are notorious noise makers and I doubt if the additional sensitivity is worth the extra noise which they introduce into the receiver. Usually the 201-A tube will be found satisfactory for detector purposes.

Once in about ten thousand cases, the by-pass condenser leaks enough to create a racket and, if you have an occasion to suspect this part of the instrument, simply disconnect the lead going to one side of the condenser. If the noise stops, obviously the condenser is at fault. If it doesn't you may assume that the condenser is not at fault and look further.

How to Find Loose Connections

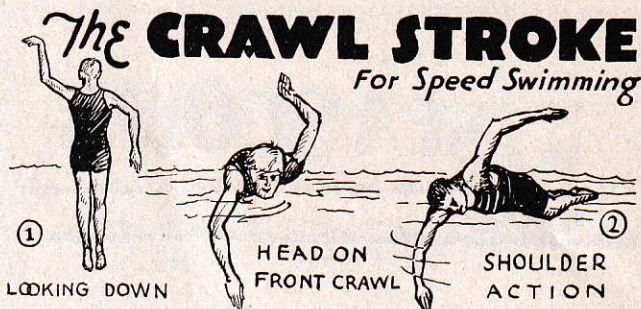
About the only other points at which you may expect to find noises are the general wiring connecting points throughout the entire receiver. If all of the above mentioned tests have been made and you are still unable to locate the cause of your trouble, turn the set up side down (with all of the power applied) and shake the connections one at a time with your finger to see if you cannot locate one of them which may be loose. Bear in mind that any two metals which have been placed together for any length of time are subject to corrosion, and you may expect to find a noisy joint in any spot of the receiver which has a mechanical connection of this type. Loosely soldered connections will show up equally well under the finger pulling method and the remedy is quite obvious.

Nowadays hardly anyone uses acid solder or acid fluxes, so you may generally disregard this cause of trouble. If, however, you notice a deposit of white powder around any particular connection you may rightfully suspect that it is an acid joint and the best thing to do is to apply a hot soldering iron to all joints of this character.

Another very bothersome development in a receiver is that of distortion which may develop from any one of several causes. There are a great many new receivers for that matter, which would sound much better if the general causes of distortion were better understood.

Probably the greatest source of all distortion trouble is the grid leak. It is a common practice on the part of manufacturers to insert grid leaks, having resistance values which are too high, into the detector circuits. This is good practice from a standpoint of sensitivity but, if one really wishes to obtain the best tone quality from a radio receiver,

(Continued on page eight)



THIS stroke is an alternate over arm stroke with the "flutter" kick, having no co-ordination between the arm and leg actions. It is the fastest sprinting stroke there is.

Figure (1) in diagram: Notice hooked wrists—the fingers should be turned slightly downward so the tips of the fingers enter the water first. This figure is emphasized to show the importance of this hooked wrist position.

Figure (2) shows the arm and shoulder action. The first half of the stroke should be a terrific pull, the last half a terrific shove. The left elbow should be curved a little under the swimmer, thus giving more leverage power. The arm action and the breathing should always co-ordinate. All long armed persons should take breaths with each stroke, also short armed persons who have small lungs, but for short armed persons with large lungs, then every second stroke should be normal. Swimmers with medium long arms should breathe every stroke and a half.

Thus, first on one side and then on the other side. Breathe deeply and in rhythm with arm motions. The leg action may vary as to their speed. The wiggle may be so violent as to be a ten count beat or as slow as a four count beat. The average is about six. The most beautiful style of the crawl is that time harmony where the arms just creep over the water accompanied by a terrific leg drive that makes the water fairly boil at the feet. The crawl stroke was first introduced at the beginning of this century by Cavill of Australia, who attached the Polynesian Indians' flutter leg action to the trudgeon stroke in place of the scissors kick, and made better time than he ever did before. The faulty leg action of most swimmers is the thing that slows them up. At the "take off," do not stand nervously holding your breath and tensing muscles in expectation of the signal. Instead load up deeply with air and gather force for the race. Also keep your eyes open while swimming so you will not lose your sense of direction in a race.



Officers of the Veteran Camp—Sea Scout Skipper, Indian Love Expert Chief Pioneer, Naturalist, together with the Camp Director.



The July 15-28 cruise of the training ship Idler, made with the Lake Michigan Yachting Association fleet, was one of the most interesting ever taken by a Sea Scout ship. The first port made was Saugatuck, where Sea Scout Night was celebrated on Monday the 15th. Three cutter loads of Sea Scouts coasted down from Holland, with their officers, and visited on board. They made a fine show as they entered the harbor stroking smartly at the oars and tossing to salute the Idler as they passed—being saluted in turn by all the yachts in at mooring.

After a friendly confab, with introductions all around, the crews went ashore to the pavilion, where pictures of the Borden Expedition were shown to a packed house. The show and dance that followed were free to Sea Scouts and a fine evening was enjoyed.

Two more days were spent at Saugatuck in various activities and expeditions up and down the river. One afternoon was set aside for receiving visitors on board. Quite a large number availed themselves of the opportunity and were taken for a short sail.

On Wednesday there was a Regatta with events of all kinds. The affair got under way before our crew was aware of it, but they arrived in time to win the canoe race and the canoe tilt and capture six watermelons in the watermelon fight. Had they been on hand sooner they might have swept up the meet. It was too bad. The boys only had half a watermelon apiece and about \$10 prize money. Sad, very sad.

That night there was a Venetian celebration with the boats all decorated with Chinese lanterns and red flares. The Hollanders appeared again and invited the Chicago crew to a dinner in their honor given by the Rotary Club of Holland. The dinner next day and the exploration trip to various points of interest and industry in Holland was a decided success. Souvenirs were given each member of the crew. S. S. Bell, the "Old Salt" of the Daily News, was on this part of the trip and strengthened his allegiance to Sea Scouting.

With all this shore visiting it became necessary to run up a little sea mileage so the schooner put out and plowed off a hundred miles or so, joining the Fleet at White Lake. The White Lake Yacht Club was especially kind and considerate toward the Sea Scouts. At each meal or other event for the entertainment of the yachtsmen someone made sure that the crew was rounded up in time to enjoy it to the fullest extent. Literally tons of delicious food, cake, pie, ice cream, etc., were consumed by our Chicago tars, aided heroically by four sturdy tars from Holland who finished the cruise.

Some of the boys went up to Owasispe, saw their old pals, sailed the boat at the advanced camp and reported favorably on the state of affairs. The War canoe is wonderfully well handled by Skipper Anderson with a crew of 16. The sail boat sails, and so do most of the camp directors on Big Blue—when they get a chance. There is real interest taken in sailing and Sea Scouting wherever there is water. All that seems lacking is some local John Paul Jones to get things moving.

INLAND LAKE BOATS

At White Lake several of the boys had a chance to race on the inland lake scows. These are very fast, light boats, without keels and of delicate balance. To really get the most out of one is a fine art, but in any event, there is nothing at White City or Riverview that gives a thrill to compare with racing these craft. The crew often hang clear outside the boat to keep her from capsizing when tearing along in a puff of wind. One owner said he upset fifteen times before he learned to handle his boat. Just goes to show that will power will overcome a bad habit.

The White Lake events marked the height of the cruise. The crew were back home in time to see the start of the Mackinac Race. The last two days furnished enough wind to test the mettle of any ship. The writer, who was taking photos of the waves from the top of a lighthouse, twenty-five feet above the normal waterline, was thoroughly soaked by a fragment of a big wave which broke over the dock below. Steamers toiling north were hours late—some of them did not venture from port.

The Idler is made for just that kind of stuff and the trip home was a glorious gallop.

FLEET NEWS

The fleet is being somewhat depleted by the sale and retarded commissioning of several of the boats. The season's various activities have so taken up the time of some of the crews that they are unable to use their own boats and have disposed of them to private parties. In a way this is to be regretted but is not due to lack of interest in sailing. There is a berth open for practically every Sea Scout who is eligible to go sailing and we have had calls for one or two boys to teach sailing and water activities at camps,—act as paid hands on yachts, etc., which jobs have not been filled. The advanced raters can not be spread out to cover every opportunity. What we need is more Sea Scouts and, of course, more able Sea Scouts.

NEWS OF FOREIGN PORTS

Detroit has joined in the advancement race. At a recent ceremony, nine Sea Scouts passed from apprentice to ordinary, the first advance in the Detroit Council.

Brooklyn, N. Y., has received a cup donated by Sir Thomas Lipton, to be used in competition among Sea Scouts—details not known. Don't you think we oughta invite Sir Thomas over here or something?

A fierce storm tried to muss up the San Francisco fleet's cruise a couple of weeks ago. It was good opportunity to test training. That the training was good was proved by the fact that all the boats made port safely and without accident to any Sea Scout.

There are now 200 Sea Scout units in the United States, with a membership of about 3,000.

KEEPING YOUR RADIO SET FIT—(Continued from page seven)

the grid leak value should not exceed one-half megohm. The reader will find that the substitution of grid leaks to bring the value down to approximately one-half megohm will materially improve the tone quality of his set.

Another point at which distortion arises is the C biasing battery used in the amplifier circuits. The standard biasing voltage recommended by tube manufacturers for detection is $4\frac{1}{2}$ volts of negative C bias with 45 volts of plate voltage. On an amplifier circuit the same $4\frac{1}{2}$ volts of C bias will require 90 volts of plate voltage to keep the vacuum tube working at its most satisfactory point. As far as tone quality is concerned, thousands of radio set owners presume that the biasing voltages being applied to their sets are correct and no effort is made in the way of experiment to determine whether or not the tone quality might be improved by slightly raising or lowering grid biasing voltages.

(To be continued)

BOOK NOTES

IT seems that animals are in for their share of publicity this year, for we have just received another book about them. This one is **Wild Animal Pets**, written by the two people who seem to have had the most interesting experiences with them. They are William and Irene Finley, who act as game wardens for the State of Oregon. They have made friends with bears; they have reared little panthers; they have nursed a wee bundle of nondescript fur which turned out to be a coyote; they have visited the habitat of a baby moose, that square little creature with the big head and long legs; they have become intimate with a condor family, the old "General" of which has proven to be a most gentle companion. The book tells in a charming way about these and other little "wild" friends, and contains pictures of them that alone make it a delightful possession. It is published by Scribner's and sells for \$3.00.

Twenty snows have come and gone since the brave Matasa, chief among the Iroquois, was treacherously slain by a member of the Ojibwa tribe. Twenty snows—and yet he has not been avenged. Now Matu, the son of Matasa, has grown to manhood, and he sets forth to seek retribution of the vile offender. The tribe gives its blessing, ready to undertake a serious war with the people of the Ojibwa, if necessary, for the blood of a warrior falsely slain must be avenged. In Montreal, at the same time that Matu sets forth, a young Scotchman also prepares for a journey into the Indian country to seek his father. Both journeys abound in thrilling episodes, and when the two youths meet and become friends in the Far West, they join hands against their common enemy. The story of **Matu the Iroquois** is written by E. G. Cheyney, and published by Little, Brown & Co., for \$2.00.

A very unusual book is **Heroes of Modern Adventures**, by T. C. Bridges and H. Hessel Tiltman. It contains accounts of perilous journeys and hazardous expeditions of modern times, taken in the name of science, but so full of the spirit of real adventure, courage and determination, that they make fascinating reading. Every wide-awake Scout will enjoy this book, which is published by Little, Brown & Co., and sells for \$2.00.

"Trueboy was a beautiful pup. He was jet black with four snow-white feet. His eyes were a luminous, yellowish hue, with something wistful, anxious in them. And even at this age, Trueboy pricked his ears up straight" And so begins the history of **Trueboy**, written by Thomas C. Hinkle. Of his life in the longhorn days of Kansas, with its lonely, snow-bound winters and far stretches of wild forests and open ranges; and of his great fight with "Old Roarer," the gray wolf which was hunted and hated by all the countryside. The book is published by the William Morrow Co., and costs \$1.75.

For Scouts who are interested in handicraft, and particularly those specializing in model airplanes, there is a new book entitled **Building and Flying Model Aircraft**, by Palu Edward Garber. Mr. Garber tells how to make many different types of models, giving instructions with diagrams and illustrations in each instance, all clearly and simply presented so that any boy can easily follow the plans. The book is published by the Ronald Press, and sells for \$2.25.

In **Tam of the Fire Cave**, Howard R. Garis has given us another hero of prehistoric times. Because he is crippled, Tam is unable to go and fight with the men of his tribe but must stay at home or in the Fire Cave of the Magicians. But Tam is clever, so he discovers new ways of being useful. He finds new methods of getting food for his people, and of cooking it; he saves the tribe from starvation; he helps to rescue his father from the dread enemy. His quick brain proves of greater worth to the tribe than its greatest warrior. Published by Appleton, the book costs \$1.75.

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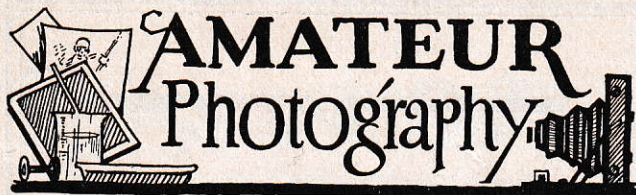
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CAMP PORTRAITURE

Camp portraiture is not very different from "home portraiture"—except in environment. It is simply the making of a thoroughly good likeness of a person amid the less conventional surroundings of the camp. Pictures made under such conditions possess a certain simplicity and naturalness that can hardly be attained in any other way.

The ever-ready Brownie or the somewhat more adaptable Kodak, along with a portrait attachment to be used in making close-ups, will be about all the equipment needed, although a support for the camera will come in handy when time exposures are to be made.

At camp as at home the pictures may be taken close-up to show only the head and shoulders, though we might say that real camp portraiture rather has to do with making three-quarter or full length figures with the camp surroundings for a background. Any location may be chosen, providing it forms a harmonious setting and the light conditions are such as to give a pleasing effect. It may be out under a big maple with the subject lounging in the hammock or camp chair, down under the willows on the old log where the "big ones" are biting, or more conventionally, just within the tent door or near the cottage window. A clump of bushes often forms an excellent background, but care should be taken that strong light does not show through and give a spotty effect which might detract from the interest in the subject. A clapboard side of a cottage with its unbroken regular lines, a variegated landscape of sunshine and shadow, and a background where a tree or other equally objectionable object seems to be growing from the top of the subject's head should especially be avoided.

Portrait quality means "roundness," depth, softness—qualities that are obtained by a proper placing of the subject in regard to light conditions and the exposure. There must be no harsh contrasts, but instead soft gradations with detail showing both in the highest lights and deepest shadows. For example, if the picture is taken in the glare of bright sunlight, or if the face is half in light and half in shadow, the result is usually harsh and displeasing.

The light should come from above and at such an angle that it will fall on the face so as to just extend to the cheek on the shadow side. This effect can be secured by having the subject a little back under the shade of porch, tent fly or tree, out of the direct light but still fully illuminated, and then having him turn until the desired result is obtained.

Beautiful effects such as are so often seen in the movies, are secured by photographing against the light. Plenty of reflected light must be used with the lens well shielded from the direct glare of the light, or the image will have a fogged and hazy appearance. In this work one should time more for the shadows than for the highlight parts.

As for posing. Don't! Especially for those intimate, care free camp pictures. Better to wait and catch the subject in some delightfully characteristic pose, unconsciously assumed; then choose the viewpoint that will be most pleasing or natural and make the exposure when the subject is absorbed in his book or fishing line.

Neither the hands nor the feet should be much nearer the camera than the rest of the body or they will appear far too large and may be out of focus. If the subject wears glasses, the head should be so turned, or a viewpoint chosen, that they do not reflect the light of the sky.

When arranging the composition in the view finder, it is almost always desirable to have more space in front than back of the subject so he seems to be entering rather than leaving the picture. The head may come fairly near the top, except when he is sitting, or bending over. Then a little more space at the top is needed so as not to cramp the subject and to give the impression that he could straighten up—if he wanted to.

If head and shoulder portraits are to be made, either the Kodak Portrait Attachment or a Kodak Diffusion Portrait Attachment should be used over the lens, the latter giving beautiful soft effects, especially if the lens is used wide open. If stopped down it will give relatively sharper images.

In what might be termed the open shade, not directly under the trees or other covering, the exposure with the sun shining, but not directly on the subject, will be 1/25 second, using stop f.8 (U. S. 4) with double lens cameras, or stop No. 1 with single lens cameras. On dull days or in a more secluded spot the exposure may be about 1/2 second with the same stops. Of course with cameras like the Modern Kodaks equipped with f.6.3 or faster lens, snapshots (1/25) can be made in shaded places. A large stop is preferred for portraits, not only to shorten the exposure time but also because it accentuates the interest by rendering the subject sharper than the surroundings. Accurate focusing is, of course, necessary, and it's generally best to measure distances. All exposures of more than 1/25 second must be made with the camera held by a tripod or Kodapod, or placed on some other firm support, as few people can hold a camera steady for slower exposures.

The timing should always be ample to give detail in the shadows, and care taken not to overdevelop the films, thus avoiding harsh contrasts in negatives.

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STAMP LORE

By Fred J. Melville

The People's Republic of Touva entered the philatelic arena with a mysterious set of ten stamps, bearing only Mongolian inscriptions, and with a wheel as the central device. The wheel has suggested to the motoring philatelist a steering wheel with extra gadgets; the first explanation of it we received was that it was a wheel of happiness, and this is closely akin to Ismail Bey's latest definition of it as the wheel of eternity, a religious and philosophical emblem, appropriate to a people whose history is lost in antiquity.

Having found a use for postage stamps, the Republic has elected to make them more comprehensible to the outer world. The newest series is frankly designed to attract and interest the collector, and to instruct the world concerning Touva and its topography. They form an elaborately designed series of fourteen stamps, in varied sizes and shapes; two of them are triangular and one diamond or "lozenge" shaped. They are the work of a lady artist, Olga Feodorovna Amossova, who took part in a Russian Mongolian expedition under Professor Bounak in 1926.

The stamps are printed in two or three colors on paper watermarked with stars and diamonds. The inscriptions are in the local language and in English.

To glance at the 8 kopecs first will serve to locate the Republic, for this is a horizontal oblong stamp, in brown, red, and blue-green, showing a map indicating the boundaries to U. S. S. R. in the North and Mongolia in the South. Touva is in Northern Mongolia, and the skeleton map shows the great rivers Uluh-Kema (Yenisei), Bey-Kema (Great Yenesei), and Hah-Kema (Little Yenesei), and the capital Kyzil. Across the border, in Mongolia proper, the lakes Ubsa-nor and Kosso-gol are prominently marked.

The values 1 to 5 kopecs are of normal stamp size; the 1 kopec black, red, and brown depicts a native woman; the 2 kopecs violet, green, and brown shows a deer with large antlers against a background of valleys and pasturage; the 3 kopecs black, yellow, and green depicts a mountain goat in appropriate setting. The 4 kopecs violet and brown shows a native standing outside his hut, in the mountain forest, this type of dwelling, with a pointed roof, being peculiar to the mountain dwellers. The 5 kopecs orange, black, and blue has a portrait of a male native.

The 8, 10, and 14 kopecs are large oblong stamps, the first bearing the map. The 10 kopecs black, green, and red-brown gives a glimpse of Touvan sport, for there is a trio of native archers in festive attire, armed with bows and quivers.

We are told that archery is a popular form of recreation, especially with the young folk, and a reputation for skill at this art counts for much in Touva, and, above all, makes a young fellow an eligible parti.

The 14 kopecs, blue and orange, shows a camel caravan, laden with goods, traversing the desert, with a range of mountains in the background; the foremost camel is led by a guide, and the others are tied one behind the other.

The next two values are triangular. The 18 kopecs blue and purple-brown shows cattle grazing, a shepherd amidst them, and in the rear are seen the huts of the shepherds of the plain, low-arched dwellings covered with felt, a contrast to the homes of the mountain folk, seen on the 4 kopecs. The 28 kopecs green and brown bears a landscape with trees in the foreground, and a valley with a glimpse of mountain tops in the distance.

A new shape of stamp, of large size and nearly square, is

used for the 40, 50, and 70 kopecs. The 40 kopecs red and greenish-blue shows a file of natives on horseback, crossing a river, the horses half submerged in the water. The 50 kopecs black, green, and brown, perhaps the most effective design in the series, shows a native girl at work making an elaborately designed carpet; her long tresses of hair are drawn under her belt to keep them from impeding her movements, and at the side is a large basin for water or perhaps koumiss.

The 70 kopecs red and bistre shows a native horseman shielding his eyes from the sun as he gazes across the plains after his cattle.

The remaining stamp is not one that you would find convenient in use if you have a large post to despatch. It is lozenge-shape, a diamond turned sideways, and it measures 3 in. across and 1¾ in. in height. The frame is a yellow-brown, and the centre, in violet, shows natives, men and women, astride reindeer on the slopes of the mountains.

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